

What is claimed is:

1. A storage unit, comprising:

a first tracking device, wherein the tracking device monitors the presence of an item associated with the storage unit and monitors the temperature of the item; and

a processing device electrically linked to the first tracking device that communicates with the tracking device.
2. The storage unit of claim 1, further comprising a data storage device that is electrically linked to the processing device.
3. The storage unit of claim 2, wherein the data storage device stores write data.
4. The storage unit of claim 3, wherein the processing device writes the write data to the first tracking device.
5. The storage unit of claim 1, further comprising a data storage device that is electrically linked to the first tracking device.
6. The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the processing device at reads data from the first tracking device and generates read data.
7. The storage unit of claim 6, further comprising a data storage device, wherein the read data is stored in the data storage device.
- 8. The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the first tracking device is a tracking device socket that is electrically compatible with a second tracking

device that is associated with the item.

9. The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the storage unit is a refrigerator.
10. The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the storage unit is an incubator.
11. The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the storage unit is a blood storage unit.
12. The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the tracking device is an iButton.
13. The storage unit according to claim 1, further comprising:
an access control system, wherein the access control system is connected to the processing device.
14. The storage unit according to claim 13, wherein the access control system is a badge identification system and grants access to the storage unit to authorized users.
15. The storage unit according to claim 13, wherein the access control system is a bioinformatics system.
16. The storage unit according to claim 15, wherein the bioinformatics system is a retinal scanning system.
17. The storage unit according to claim 13, wherein the access control system maintains a log within the access control system of individuals

who access the storage unit.

18. The storage unit according to claim 13, wherein the access control system communicates information to the processing device about an individual who has accessed the storage unit.

19. The storage unit according to claim 18, wherein the information communicated to the processing device about the individual is at least one of identification information and time of access information.

20. The storage unit according to claim 1, wherein the tracking device generates temperature information from taking the temperature of the item.

21. The storage unit according to claim 20, wherein the tracking device stores the temperature information.

plurality 22. The storage unit according to claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of tracking devices associated with a plurality of items in the storage unit.

22.²³ The storage unit according to claim 1, further comprising:
an external processing device connected to the processing device, wherein the information can be accessed from the external processing device by a user of the external processing device.

23.²⁴ The storage unit according to claim 22, wherein the external processing device is a part of an external network.

24.²⁵ A method for generating a log of temperature information for an item in a storage unit, comprising:

storing the item;
tracking the presence of the item;
taking the temperature of the item; and
maintaining information generated from tracking the presence of the item and taking the temperature of the item.

25.¹⁹ The method according to claim 24, further comprising:
determining whether an individual is an authorized user; and
granting access to the storage unit if the individual is an authorized user.

26.²⁶ The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
recording information about the authorized user.

27.²⁷ The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
recording the time the authorized user was permitted access to the storage unit.

28.²⁸ The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
recording the time the authorized user exited the storage unit.

29.²⁹ The method according to claim 24, wherein the taking of the temperature of the item is performed and recorded at discrete intervals of time.

30. A storage unit, comprising:

means for storing an item;

means for taking the temperature of the item;

means for tracking the presence of an item; and

means for maintaining information generated from tracking the presence of the item and taking the temperature of the item.

31. The storage unit of claim 30²⁴, wherein the storing means is a storage unit.

32. The storage unit of claim 30²⁴, wherein the temperature taking means and the tracking means is a tracking device.

33. The storage unit of claim 30²⁴, wherein the maintaining means is a processing device.

34. The storage unit of claim 33²², wherein the processing device is a microcontroller.

35. The storage unit according to claim 30²⁴, further comprising:
means for accessing tracking information generated by the tracking means.

36. The storage unit according to claim 27²⁶, wherein the accessing means is an access control system.